

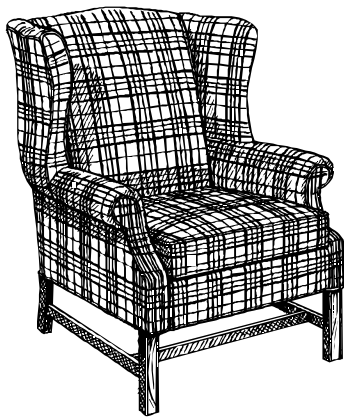
Seattle febnet

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From Your Federal Executive Board January – February 2002

CHAIR'S CORNER

By Larry Andriesen



On behalf of the members of the Seattle Federal Executive Board I would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year! President Bush in his year end message to Federal employees stated "America depends on

thousands of Federal employees who help keep this country strong and ensure that our government functions effectively. Since September 11, Americans have been counting on the United States government to protect them. During these extraordinary times, Federal employees have acted with professionalism and purpose in service to the American people. Now more than ever your Federal service is appreciated." The SFEB very much appreciates the support and the work of all our members and looks forward to another great year with your help.

The 2001 Combined Federal Campaign went over and above our highest expectations this year, again thanks to your support. Our goal of \$2,555,555, which had not been met the last three years, was not only met but surpassed by \$120,000! Our final total of \$2,611,000 will provide much benefit to those in need within our

community. Agencies and individuals were recognized in a ceremony during January for their overwhelming generosity. We are continuously looking for interested volunteers to serve as Loaned Executives, on the Eligibility Committee or the Planning Committee for next year's campaign. Feel free to contact the SFEB office if you would like to work in this capacity.

It is never too late to get involved in any one of our committees. Make this one of your New Year's Resolutions to become more involved in the Federal community. We have many options for you to choose from. Committees include: the Acquisitions Committee, Alternative Dispute Resolution, the Associates Program, Combined Federal Campaign, the Learning Council, Public Affairs Committee, the Recruitment Committee, and the Unified Programs. Involvement on one of these committees strengthens your involvement in Federal programs and provides you the opportunity to interact with members of other agencies.

If you have a project or program that you feel would be of interest to the Federal community give the SFEB office a call. We provide a valuable service to the community and would welcome your participation on the team. I look forward to working with you on an upcoming project.



9.11.2001



SEATTLE PASSPORT AGENCY

Although many people understandably associate the U.S. Department of State with the conduct of the nation's foreign policy and the overseas operation of American embassies and consulates, the Department also operates 16 domestic passport agencies charged with determining U.S. citizenship and issuing passports to U.S. citizen travelers. One of these, the Seattle Passport Agency, has responsibility for passport issuance for 11 states: Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming. A passport agency has been located in Seattle since 1959.



Passport demand has been rising steadily for a number of years. In FY-2001, Passport Services issued a record 7.3 million passports, nearly twice the number issued 10 years ago. The Seattle Agency issued a record 400,000 passports during the 2001 fiscal year with approximately 60 staff members. Given that fewer people are traveling in 2002, it is anticipated that passport workload will be about 5% lower.

SFEB members who have seen many passport customers in the Jackson Federal Building may be surprised to learn that less than 5% of our customers apply in person at the Agency. All of the individuals who apply directly at the Seattle Passport Agency, must be traveling within 14 days and make an appointment by calling (206) 808-5700. The other 95% of passport applicants in the Agency's region apply at one of more than 750 passport acceptance facilities throughout our region. The Agency has added some 30 new facilities in the greater Seattle area within the last three years to better serve customers. Acceptance facilities (usually post offices, city clerk offices,

and county courts) accept applications for forwarding to the nearest passport agency and offer customers the convenience of applying closer to home or work. Information regarding passport requirements and locations of acceptance facilities is available at www.travel.state.gov. To obtain a passport for the first time, a citizen submits an application at an acceptance facility, as well as the appropriate fees, photographs, identification, and proof of U.S. citizenship. Those who apply to renew an expired passport issued within the last 15 years, are eligible to use the mail-in passport application. Federal employees who travel for the U.S. government usually apply for official U.S. passports, which are issued by the Special Issuance Agency in Washington, D.C. A list of tips for international travelers is below.



TIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS

**** Apply early for a passport. Routine passport processing takes approximately 5 weeks. Expedited service is available for an additional fee of \$35.***

**** If you already have a passport, make sure that it is still valid before you go. Remember to fill in the emergency information page of your passport.***

**** Visit the State Department website with information for travelers, www.travel.state.gov, which offers information on travel conditions for every country in the world, foreign country entry requirements, and travel warnings.***

**** Leave copies of your itinerary and passport data page with family at home so that you can be contacted in case of an emergency. Carry a copy of the data page of your passport, separate from the passport itself, in case your passport is lost or stolen.***

The photocopy can be of assistance if you need to apply for a replacement passport at a U.S. embassy or consulate.

**** Familiarize yourself with local laws and customs of the countries you will visit. Remember, while in a foreign country, you are subject to its laws!***

**** Do not leave your luggage unattended in public areas and never accept packages from strangers.***

**** Do not become a target for thieves by wearing conspicuous clothing and expensive jewelry and do not carry excessive amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards.***

**** Deal only with authorized agents when you exchange money or purchase art or antiques in order to avoid violating local laws.***

**** When overseas, avoid demonstrations and other situations that may become unruly or where anti-American sentiments may be expressed.***



Federal Occupational Health (FOH) is part of the Program Support Center of the Department of Health and Human Services. FOH is a component of the United States Public Health Service, our nation's foremost health agency, created by Congress in 1798. FOH's mission is to improve the health and safety of the government workforce by designing and providing innovative, customized, cost-effective occupational health, environmental and work/life solutions that exceed customer expectations.

Federal Occupational Health was created in 1946 by an amendment to the Public Health Service Act. Beginning in 1984, FOH became fully reimbursable, operating without any direct

congressional appropriations. In 1996, FOH became one of only six government-wide franchises under the Government Management and Reform Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-356). This select designation means that both the Office of Management and Budget and the Chief Financial Officers Council have given their "Seal of Approval" to our fiscally sound management, quality standards, and attention to customer satisfaction.

FOH works in partnership with Federal organizations across the country to design and deliver comprehensive solutions to meet their occupational health needs. Our customized programs are designed to help build a healthier and more productive workforce and a safer workplace. FOH has occupational health centers and wellness/fitness centers located throughout the country in addition to a large network of medical professionals, environmental specialists, and counselors.

For more detail on any of our specific service offerings, please check out our website www.foh.dhhs.gov.





FEDERAL FOOTSTEPS



Pay Cap Rises

The most widely applied Federal salary cap, the total compensation limit applying to employees in several high-level salary systems, is rising this year to \$138,200, a \$4,500 increase over the 2001 level. The cap is set according to a formula tied to rates for executive schedule political appointees. The increase reflects a 3.4 percent increase in those rates under a separate employment cost index measure used to determine executive schedule, congressional and judicial pay, with rounding to the nearest \$100.

Employees in high-level pay systems have complained for years about the pay compression effect of the salary caps. The largest group of employees affected by the cap consists of senior executive service members: the top three of the six SES grades in all localities now are up against the cap, and in certain localities the second and third grade are up against it as well. In many cases those executives are making not much more than employees they supervise who are in the upper reaches of the general schedule. The cap also applies to the top two of eight administrative law judge rates in almost all localities and limits pay of some employees in senior level and senior scientific or professional positions.

Presidential Management Intern Program

For over two decades the Presidential Management Intern (PMI) Program has been a

vital hiring vehicle for Federal agencies to employ individuals with graduate degrees who have demonstrated a commitment to a career in public service. The objective is to attract quality individuals from diverse academic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

There are three components to the PMI assessment center: an individual presentation, a group discussion, and a writing exercise. The process entails a three-member panel who observe and evaluate the candidates on the group discussion and individual presentation. The writing exercise is evaluated by a separate group of assessors.

OPM has received 1800 nominations for the program this year, the most in PMI history. Six hundred and twenty three finalists were named and OPM expects more than 350 to accept placements in the Federal government. Just five years ago, interest in the program had dwindled to just 446 nominations and 114 placements. Federal agencies eagerly recruited PMI's at the Program's Job Fair last year. Information Technology, Financial Management and Budgeting skills appeared to be in the most demand. The assessments will take place in Seattle on January 29-31 and February 5-7.



GSA Issues Guidance on Frequent Traveler Benefits

A fiscal year 2002 Defense Department authorization bill (S-1438) that has now been signed into law authorized Federal employees to retain promotional items, including frequent flyer miles, earned on official travel. The GSA has issued an important travel advisory providing interim details regarding this new authority. For a look at the new policy and what happens next check out www.gsa.gov

Long Term Care Enrollments Just Months Off



OPM has said that although it still has not awarded a contract to an insurance company to be the carrier of the upcoming long-term care insurance program it expects to begin early enrollment around February or March. Those who do not want to wait for the formal open season to be held in late summer and early fall will be able to choose coverage immediately with benefits to begin in October.

President Bush has signed into law (PL 107-104) legislation that will exempt premiums under the upcoming Federal long-term care insurance program from taxes that might otherwise be imposed by states and localities. That puts the program on the same footing as the Federal health insurance and life insurance programs, which already are exempt from premium taxes.

The LTC tax measure also makes those who separate from Federal service before retirement (but with eligibility to a deferred annuity) eligible to join the LTC program when they hit the age at which they can begin collecting the deferred annuity, typically 62.

White House Asks Industry to Develop Secure Federal Network

Posted on GovExec.com October 2001

President Bush's special advisor on cybersecurity told hundreds of information technology



specialists that he wants the private sector's recommendation on how to build a secure nationwide intranet for government agencies and their estimates on its cost. The private sector would build the intranet, to be called Govnet, and then lease it back to the government in exchange for a service fee.

"We want to build as secure an intranet as possible - one that taxpayers can rely on to be 100 percent safe - a network that is separate from the routers connected to the Internet," says Richard Clarke at the Commerce Department.

There has been a 66 percent increase in virus attacks on computer networks in the past year. He added that computer viruses are becoming smarter and mutating, raising the possibility of a "devastating cyber attack" on government computer systems. "Our enemies are smart, and they know how to use our technology against us," he said.



Two weeks ago, at the direction of Clarke, GSA posted a request for information seeking private sector ideas on the possibility of building a special network for key government functions. Clarke said he had been working on the idea for about a year and first briefed Bush about a private government network last May. He said Bush expressed interest but wanted to know the cost.

We have had a variety of tech people ask us, "What can we do to help?" he said. "It is in that spirit that we ask you to build an intranet and to tell us how much it will cost."

Clarke underscored that Govnet would not replace government agencies use of the Internet to provide public information but rather would be used for critical agency information only. Each agency would pay a service fee to connect to Govnet, and each agency would decide what it considers critical and top-secret information.

No agency could connect to the Govnet unless it had demonstrated a level of computer security to ensure that no intruders could access Govnet. Clarke noted that no government agency has that level of computer security now.

Private sector recommendations on Govnet were due in November and GSA expected to post an analysis of the recommendations and an idea for moving forward by the end of January. If the administration agrees to ask high tech companies to build Govnet, officials estimate that it would take about a year and a half to launch the network. Several news reports have quoted security experts as criticizing the Govnet idea, charging that no computer network can be completely insulated from attack

Child Passenger Safety Week 2002

Did you know that in 1999, an average of eight children who were under the age of 15 were killed every day in motor vehicle crashes in the United States? An additional 871 were injured every day. Getting children to ride buckled up in motor vehicles every time on every trip is the focus of this year's National Child Passenger Safety Week, February 10-16, 2002.

Over the past several years, members of the transportation, health, safety and law enforcement communities have come together during the week of Valentine's Day to heighten the public's knowledge about child passenger safety. In addition, efforts are made to promote the use of booster seats for children riding in motor vehicles who weigh between 40 and 80 pounds. The proper fit and use of bicycle helmets, pedestrian safety and school bus safety are also highlighted during the week.

Statistics from the National Highway Traffic

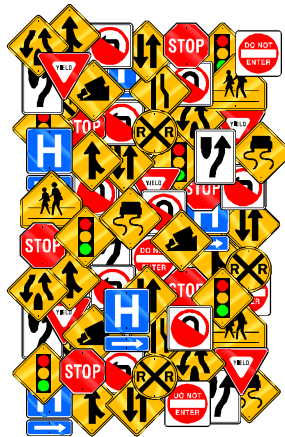
Safety Administration (NHTSA) reveal a positive trend when it comes to the use of age-appropriate child safety seats:

- ⌘ **Restraint use among infants less than one-year-old had reached 97 percent (up 14 percent from 1996);**
- ⌘ **Restraint use among toddlers ages 1-4 increased to 91 percent (a dramatic increase of 51 percent from 1996);**
- ⌘ **Restraint use among youth ages 5-15 increased to 71.8 percent (up 7 percent from 1996).**

With these increased usage rates, fatalities for children birth through 4 years old were down 3 percent in 1999.

Why not take a few extra minutes to make sure that the children in your life are safe – whether they are riding, walking, cycling or riding a school bus. NHTSA has made available on its website materials designed to educate children and adults about child passenger safety. The materials can be downloaded at www.nhtsa.dot.gov.

If you are looking for additional information on child passenger safety, please contact the NHTSA Region X office at 206-220-7640 or e-mail lorie.dankers@nhtsa.dot.gov.



Don't forget to wear your seat belt and stay safe!!

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Lawrence B. Andriesen, SFEB Chair
Anne M. Tiernan, Executive Director

Seattle Federal Executive Board
915 Second Avenue, Room 2942
Seattle, WA 98174
(206) 220-6171 FAX (206) 220-6132
Internet sfeb@mindspring.com
Homepage <http://www.seattle.feb.gov>



OVER THE TOP - YOU DID IT!!!!!!!

King Co Federal employees had something to celebrate in January. Federal employees supported the 2001 CFC Campaign with a tremendous showing of contributions in excess of \$2.6 million dollars. We not only met our goal this year, we surpassed it! The celebration that was held on January 16th is a recognition to all participants of the campaign and especially the campaign coordinators and keyworkers that made the effort and difference in their workplace, in conducting the CFC campaign.

Keynote speaker for the annual event was Mr. Norm Rice, former mayor of Seattle and currently President of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle. Mr. Rice actively supports the Seattle community and works with many charitable organizations.

There was a lot of involvement by many agencies that resulted in the success of this years CFC campaign. We especially thank and recognize those agencies that provided 13 Loaned Executives, which was absolutely key to our success:

US Army, 70th Regional Support Command
- Scott McKean
US Army Corps of Engineers
- Virginia Young
Federal Aviation Administration
- Nancy Royak
General Services Administration
- George Clark

Housing & Urban Development

- Bob Arbios
- Kristin Johnson
- Manny Lee

Internal Revenue Service

- Janet Craig

Social Security Administration

- Jan Still

Veterans Administration, Regional Office

- Victoria Dilger

US Postal Service - Dan Irwin

- Jo Park
- Erik Setter

Don't forget to recognize your CFC coordinators within your own organizations. They provided great service to your agencies and the community.

This year's award winners are:

Travel Chairs Awards –

**NOAA Office of
Response and Restoration**

**VARO Inspector
General Audit Agency**

General Services Administration

**Department of Housing and Urban
Development**

FAA NW Mountain Region Headquarters

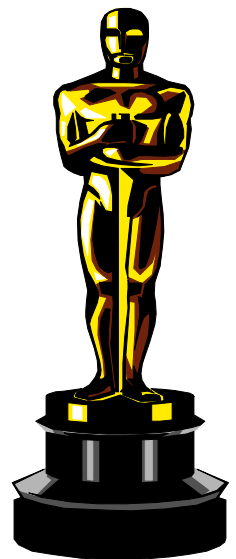
VA Puget Sound Health Care System

Over the Top Awards –

U.S. Marine corps Recruiting Station

NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers



Greatest Percent Increase Award

U.S.C.G. Electronics Support Unit

NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center

U.S. P.S. Bulk Mail Center

Highest Average Gift

Forest Service Enumclaw

FAA Air Route Traffic Control Center

Environmental Protection Agency

Most Innovative Fundraising

NOAA Western Admin. Support Center

Most Creative

NOAA NW Fisheries Science Center

Most Valuable Volunteer

Bruce Olmstead

Campaign Coordinator of the Year

Chris Boucher

Thinh Vu

Best Federal Executive Leadership Award

Dr. Frank Shipley

Most Inspirational Campaign Representative

Jo Park



**Congratulations to all of
these Award Winners –
They really have helped
our community.**



Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Raises Over \$1 Million for CFC

The PSNS Combined Federal Campaign co-chaired by Jim VanAntwerp and Glen Allen, announced that the Shipyard's 8,000 employees contributed over \$1,012,849 to this year's campaign. The amount contributed is over \$275,000 above the goal established at the beginning of the campaign. Total contributions to the Mason/Kitsap campaign was \$1,889,604.

Shipyard employees give a majority of their donations through payroll deductions. However, Shipyard CFC organizers also held several weekly events during lunchtime that raised almost \$21,000 beyond employee contributions. The Naval Civilian Managers Assoc. held a lunchtime auction at which the highest selling item was a dinner for ten held at historic Quarters C, home of the Shipyard Commander. The meal was prepared and served by Captain and Mrs. Greg Bryant, along with their secret chefs and kitchen helpers, LCDR Kyle Lee and his wife Sally. Another event, the Great Ball Race, featured 3,330 balls racing down the Decatur Street hill bringing rewards to the top three finishers. The ever popular Pie Eating Contest had 33 teams eager to be the first to finish the delicious cream pie prepared by Employee Services. The Halloween Costume Contest always brings out the creative and zany in Shipyard employees. This year's "best dressed" winner was King Lear. Events concluded with the very popular Jail and Bail. Employee contributions toward nominees send the top ten recipients to jail. The CFC "criminals" get into the spirit of the event donning elaborate costumes and retaining the most dubious of attorneys that each can find. The Acting Shipyard Commander, Captain Dan

Looney, was presiding judge at their arraignment, showed them no mercy, often sending their attorneys to join them in the cell. The good nature and antics of participants really makes all CFC events very enjoyable and lucrative for the campaign.

Shipyard Commander, Captain Greg Bryant said, "What I have witnessed at PSNS time and again is each of you continuing to offer assistance and strength to your coworkers, families, friends and neighbors, community, nation and all areas of the world in true times of need. You never seem to tire, nor do your pockets ever seem to be empty. You are remarkable and truly inspiring.

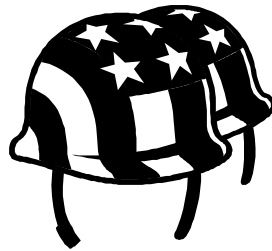
Washington Retsil Veterans are Not Forgotten

Employees at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard continued the tradition this year of providing personal time and gifts to the veterans at the Washington Retsil Veterans' Home in Port Orchard, WA.

The Washington Veterans' Home was officially dedicated on February 22, 1910 and admitted its first residents which also included wives of veterans.

The total number of men and women registered the first day was 127. The Home was initially created to take care of the veterans of the Civil War. Supplies for the home were delivered by barge and fuel oil for the boilers was piped from the pier to storage tanks on the grounds. Today the home has 290 residents who range in age from 30 to 100 years old.

Employees of PSNS provided three gifts for each of the residents along with items such as chocolates with soft center, pepperoni sticks, socks, popcorn, calendars, warm shirts and even Ding Dongs - simple things that most of us would take for granted.



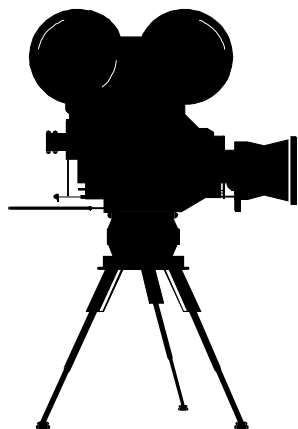
The spirit of giving and heartfelt concern for the veterans' quality of life continues throughout the year and not just during the holidays. This giving has evolved into a remarkable community service project. A group of dedicated individuals worked hard to uncover and restore the Washington Veterans' Home landmark letters. The letters, formed of large white stones, have been on the hillside since 1927 and were large enough to be seen from the air by passing planes and from the ground in Bremerton. When the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred, the sign was quickly covered with dirt and plants to get rid of the aerial markings. Over the years the trees and brush completely covered the hillside and the sign was forgotten. It's just marvelous what the spirit of giving has given to the community.

SEATTLE FEB HAPPENINGS



Operation K Toy Drive

We had another successful year with hundreds of donations of toys being dropped off at the Jackson Federal Bldg for our annual Salvation Army toy drive. Last year we thought was our best but the Federal community topped it again this year. An added note to the event this year was publicizing the drive on our website. Agencies from around the Puget Sound area dropped off car loads of toys all morning. An added bonus was a donation by Hasbro Corp. They were searching the internet and happened across our website. They shipped 4,351 toys which included games, hand held devices, dolls and numerous other things with an estimated value of \$15,000. Thanks to all of you for your generous donations to help the needy children in our community. You helped in making a child smile on Christmas morning.



Crisis Communication And Media Response Training

“When disaster strikes, responses must be made by communities not just individuals, and in a crisis, communication is the demonstration of leadership.” The SFEB has

the pleasure of hosting the internationally acclaimed seminar ***“Hi Touch Communication in a High Tech Era, from Boardroom to Broadcast, Crisis Communications and Media Responses for Federal Employees,”*** on February 6, 2002 in the Jackson Federal Building.

This same seminar has received standing ovations from corporate leaders around the world for the past two decades. It is now being made available to Federal employees nationwide. The cost is \$150 per participant for this daylong highly interactive seminar. To put things in perspective, this is a terrific opportunity to experience a “once in a lifetime” learning experience with normal speaking fees over \$7500 a day. The immediate and lasting benefit of attending this seminar is that you will know how and when to respond to crisis situations when the lights are hot and the questions tough.

A sampling of things you will learn include: What “image” is, and how to capture your audience in the first 15 seconds; how to formulate a message for today’s media...in person, print or electronic; how to insure your message is understood and not “taken out of context”; and what your body language says about you and your organization.

Call the SFEB for registration form or if you or someone from your agency has questions about this seminar, please contact the SFEB office at 206-220-6171.

Make the Difference Count

The SFEB Unified Programs will sponsor a full one day seminar on topics surrounding Diversity. The theme “Make the Difference Count” will assist you with understanding the diversity we encounter in our daily lives and will develop you into a more culturally competent person.

The event will be held in the Jackson Federal Building from 8:00 until 4:00 on Wednesday, April 17, 2002. There will be a keynote speaker and three interactive workshop sessions including lunch. Please mark your calendar now for this training opportunity with more details to follow in the coming weeks.

SFEB Associates Program

January marks the start of a new class of Associates who will work during the next two years to develop skills in creative problem solving, meeting skills, facilitation skills, personal skill inventories, team building and general public administration.

Graduating Associates were recognized at an SFEB Executive Leadership Council meeting for their participation in programs and projects that developed these skills and provided them the opportunity to interact with the Federal community on a wider scale.

Congratulations go to:

**Vaughn Blethen -
Environmental Protection
Agency**

**Stan Catchpole - General
Services Administration**

**Connie Coleman-Lacadie - Federal Aviation
Administration**

Cheri Evenson - Social Security Administration

**Paul Reed - National Oceanic Atmospheric
Administration**



Bernice Robinson - Federal Aviation Administration

Mike Toda - Army 70th Reg. Support Command

And a warm welcome to:

Senoria Allen - Social Security Administration

Lauren Anderson -Army 70th Reg. Support Command

Marianne Anderson - Federal Aviation Admin.

Timothy Holzhauer - Federal Aviation Admin.

Peggy Mahoney - Army 70th Reg. Support Command

Barbra Weitzel - General Services Administration

Mollie Yeats - Housing and Urban Development

What Does Citizenship Mean to Us?

“My fellow United States Citizens, I feel honored to have been chosen to address all of you. This is a great moment in my life, and I am sure in yours, to be able to say I am a United States Citizen. For me, it is a dream come true. When I came to the U.S. twenty-one years ago, I had no intention whatsoever to stay and become a citizen. I had always thought that after getting my college education that I would go back to the country where I was born. As the years flew by, my love and admiration for the American way of life became stronger. Freedom, opportunity, and good people were the things that I admired the most about the USA.

I admit that the road to becoming a citizen has been long and hard. After all, great things only happen to people who are patient and work hard...I am sure that each of you has his or her own circumstances and story on how you became a U.S. citizen...but, the bottom line, is that what motivates us to become U.S. citizens is the way of life.

We are at an unfortunate time in the history of this country where the events of September 11, 2001 have claimed the lives of so many innocent citizens. As new U.S. Citizens, this is a time where we need to stand by each other and help when and where we can. As John Kennedy once said, “Ask not what our country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.” What we can do for our country is live normally, keep working hard, be vigilant, help each other, and most of all pray for all the soldiers who are laying their lives on the line to protect our freedoms and make this world more peaceful for us and for our children.

May God Bless You and God Bless the United States of America.

Remarks provided by Dr. Ghassan Maurice Abdelnour, previously from Lebanon at the Naturalization Ceremony in which he became a citizen of the United States of America, on October 26, 2001.

